



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release To PM's, JULY 18, 1960

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION AVAILABLE ON TRUMPETER SWANS

America's largest and most majestic waterfowl species, its life history, distribution, population, and management is the subject of the latest North American Fauna Series published by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Number 63 in the Series, The Trumpeter Swan, is the result of an intensive study by Winston E. Banko, Chief of the Section of Wildlife Management in the Branch of Wildlife Refuges, and former Manager of Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Montana, the principal nesting grounds for these rare and graceful birds. Illustrated with many beautiful black and white photographs by the author and line drawings by Miss Shirley A. Briggs, the book is one of the most thorough studies ever made of a North American bird.

The Trumpeter Swan goes back into history and even pre-history to get the background story of these birds, with particular emphasis on the population changes that have occurred. Trumpeter swans once nested all across the northern United States from the Great Lakes west to the Pacific and north through Canada and Alaska. Their wintering grounds extended from California across the southern United States and north to Chesapeake Bay.

However, with the coming of the white man, the population of these birds diminished until they were practically eliminated with only a few dozen left in the United States and a slightly larger number in Canada and Alaska. The Trumpeter range was reduced to a few of the more remote areas in the western United States, Canada, and Alaska. Habitat destruction due to man's activities imposed the greatest hardship on the Trumpeters, although hunting did take a large percentage of the birds. Trumpeter skins were used to make cloaks, their quills became pens, and their down was used as stuffing for mattresses, pillows, and quilts.

The Trumpeter Swan tells of the history of this beautiful bird, its life cycle, and the struggle that has brought it back from the brink of extinction.

Copies of the book are available at \$1.00 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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